



Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.
Governor

Gary R. Herbert
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

D. Kent Michie
Commissioner

State Office Building, Room 3110
Salt Lake City, UT 84114
Telephone: (801)538-3800
Facsimile: (801)538-3829
www.insurance.utah.gov

For Immediate Release:

April 26, 2006

Contact: Jilene Whitby
(801)538-3803

What are your chances of having a flood?

(Salt Lake City, Utah) Did you know you have a 26% chance of having a flood and only a 9% chance of having a fire, yet, how many of us have flood insurance?

"Everyone is susceptible to flooding," says Utah's Insurance Commissioner Kent Michie. "With Utah's spring runoff beginning to peak there is an increased risk of flooding. Home owners need to know that a standard homeowners' policy does not cover flood damage."

Flood insurance is a special policy that is federally backed by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Insurance agents and companies, often the same person that sold you your homeowner's policy, also sell flood policies. These policies cover damage from an unusual and rapid accumulation of runoff of surface waters from any source, including mudflows and collapse or settling of land as a result of erosion or undermining by water.

If you do not know whom to contact to purchase a flood policy you can:

1. Check your local Yellow Pages directory under "Insurance;"
2. Call 1-888-CALL FLOOD (2255-35663);
3. Go to FEMA's floodsmart website at <http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/index.jsp>. Click on "Find an Agent" and put in your location information for a list of agents in your general vicinity; or
4. Go to the Utah Insurance Department's website below for a list of 20 insurance companies that sell the majority of flood insurance in Utah, or call 801-538-3803 to receive a copy of the list by mail or fax.
http://www.insurance.utah.gov/2004GovRpt/MS_2004/MS_Flood.pdf

If you would like to know what flood zone you are in go to FEMA's floodsmart site <http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/index.jsp> and click on "What's Your Flood Risk?" Just be aware that 25% of flood loss claims are filed in low to moderate risk areas. Floods can happen anytime, anywhere.

You need to plan ahead. Flood insurance coverage will not go into affect until 30 days after you purchase a policy.

The Utah Insurance Department regulates insurance in Utah. Our mission is to foster a healthy insurance market by promoting fair, reasonable and responsive practices. Feel free to contact us at 801-538-3803.

000